



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 10, 2015

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#SpotlightOnCoverage

COVERED CALIFORNIA'S BUS TOUR NEARS ITS COMPLETION, ARRIVES IN REDDING TO SPOTLIGHT OPEN ENROLLMENT

*Stops at Mercy Medical Center Redding to Put Focus
on Open Enrollment in the Region*

REDDING, Calif. — Covered California's 38-stop bus tour has been crisscrossing the state since Oct. 30, to get the word out about open enrollment. The latest stop came Tuesday in Redding, an area where there are many different ways consumers can learn about their enrollment options and ultimately find the plan that works best for them and their families.

"We're putting the spotlight on open enrollment, because we want everyone without insurance to know how important having coverage for them and their family really is," said Covered California Executive Director Peter V. Lee. "Mercy Medical Center Redding is one of our last stops on the open-enrollment bus tour, but we'll continue to spotlight the fact that open enrollment continues through Jan. 31."

Covered California is spotlighting enrollment because an estimated 2.2 million uninsured Californians remain eligible to get help to make their insurance affordable by enrolling in either Covered California or Medi-Cal. An estimated 750,000 uninsured Californians could enroll through Covered California, including about 32,000 in pricing region 1, which includes Shasta County.

"We're thrilled that Covered California chose to spotlight Mercy Medical Center Redding," said President of Dignity Health North State Mark Korth. "Shasta County residents should know that not only are we a great place to receive care, but that we can also help them find a health plan that is best for their personal situation, including those offered through Covered California."

Residents in this area will be able to see Mercy Medical Center Redding's commitment to getting everyone affordable health care coverage.

(more)

“At Covered California we’re literally putting spotlights up around the state to help get the message out that it’s open enrollment,” Lee said. “We couldn’t be more pleased that our logo will be up and visible at Mercy Medical Center Redding, because it will be a reminder that open enrollment is happening now.”

Open enrollment for 2016 coverage began Nov. 1 and ends Jan. 31.

UnitedHealthcare Benefits Plan of California will be joining Anthem Blue Cross of California, Blue Shield of California, Health Net and Kaiser Permanente as an option for consumers in region 1. UnitedHealthcare is the largest single health carrier in the United States and offers telehealth and mobile apps to help its consumers get treatment, manage their health needs, and get estimates for specific treatments and procedures.

“At Covered California we’re expanding the choices available, which benefits not only our members, but also those who buy off the exchange in the individual market,” Lee said. “With Covered California’s purchasing power and the addition of UnitedHealthcare, there is more competition, which means more choices available to everyone looking for insurance.”

Those who need insurance can go to CoveredCA.com to learn about their options and find locations in their community where they can get free, confidential help enrolling.

In the Redding area, there are more than 40 Certified Insurance Agents and community-based enrollers, including R.W. Hudson Insurance, Shasta Community Health Center, Viva Downtown Redding Inc., and Caring Choices. This year, Covered California has more than 500 storefront locations statewide where individuals can get help enrolling — twice the number available at the start of last year’s open enrollment.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state’s marketplace for the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Covered California, in partnership with the California Department of Health Care Services, was charged with creating a new health insurance marketplace in which individuals and small businesses can get access to affordable health insurance plans. Covered California helps individuals determine whether they are eligible for premium assistance that is available on a sliding-scale basis to reduce insurance costs or whether they are eligible for low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Small businesses can purchase competitively priced health insurance plans and offer their employees the ability to choose from an array of plans and may qualify for federal tax credits.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the new market work for California’s consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the Governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.

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